



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF METH

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to illegally possessing methamphetamine.

Nicholas G. Perez, 21, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to illegally possessing methamphetamine.

By pleading guilty, **Perez** admitted that he was in possession of 50 grams or more of methamphetamine on Sept. 22, 2004, in Kansas City. Specifically, **Perez** admitted that he possessed 57 grams of pure methamphetamine and that he intended to distribute it to others.

As part of his guilty plea, **Perez** also agreed to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of him possessing the methamphetamine, including firearms and approximately \$9,050 recovered from his residence on Sept. 22, 2004.

Perez was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Oct. 7, 2004, in Kansas City.

Under federal statutes, **Perez** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole up to life in prison without parole, plus a \$4 million fine. His sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David DeTar Newbert. It was investigated by the Clay County Drug Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow